

(b) (6)

From: HarborComments <HarborComments@epa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, July 21, 2016 8:10 PM
To: PortlandHarbor
Subject: FW: Harbor Comments

-----Original Message-----

From: drupal_admin@epa.gov [mailto:drupal_admin@epa.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, July 20, 2016 4:34 PM
To: HarborComments <HarborComments@epa.gov>
Subject: Harbor Comments

Submitted on 07/20/2016 7:33PM
Submitted values are:

Your Name: (b) (6)

Your Email: (b) (6)

Your Comments:

I am an enrolled member of the Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate in South Dakota. I am here on behalf of the NAYA Family Canoe Journey, a community initiative of the Portland Youth and Elders Council and the Native American Youth and Family Center.

When we started the Canoe Journey Initiative three years ago, we toured the waterways in the urban area. As we sat by the water enjoying the splendor around us, we noticed the river glistening. We looked closer, it was an oil slick! Sickened, we realized this is what our generation did, in our greed for more - more - more, we destroyed the environment. To this day we live with this guilt and wonder how and what can we, as individuals, do to help. The problem seemed insurmountable but the federal government and the EPA now have the ability and responsibility to force polluters to clean it up.

Our canoe family practiced at Cathedral Park below the St. John's bridge on the Willamette River in the Superfund area. As we were all enjoying the park, the children could not resist the water! We soon realized we were exposing our children and families to deadly toxins, raw sewage and industrial waste.

We now go far upstream on the Columbia or far downstream on the Willamette.

We've seen fisher people and families, mostly people of color with children out fishing, in the Superfund area and probably eating more than the recommended allotment of poisonous fish. The EPA must remove the deadly toxins and ensure that the fish are edible, train and hire people of color and other impacted residents for long term clean up jobs, listen observe and learn from Native elders about how to clean the environment and most of all ensure that polluters do not re-contaminate and that they, not the impacted people of color, pay for their pollution.